

CORRECTED

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 22-861V

KIMBERLY W. CENTER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: May 22, 2024

Richard William Zahn, Jr., Joel Bieber Firm, Richmond, VA, for Petitioner.

Katherine Edwards, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On August 5, 2022, Kimberly W. Center (“Petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleged that she suffered from a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of receiving an influenza (“flu”) vaccination on September 30, 2020. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On December 20, 2023, a Ruling on Entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On May 21, 2024, Respondent filed a Proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”). Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

the proffered award. *Id.* at 1 – 2. Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, I award:

- A. A lump sum payment of \$50,000.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.**
- B. A lump sum payment of \$1,004.92, representing compensation for satisfaction of the State of Virginia Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and the Treasurer of Virginia.** Petitioner's file number, 202202132, should be noted on the check. The check should be mailed to:

Assistant Attorney General John A. Myers, Jr.
202 N. 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Petitioner agrees to endorse the check to the Treasurer of Virginia for satisfaction of the Medicaid lien.

These amounts represent compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a). The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

KIMBERLY CENTER,

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 22-861V

Chief Special Master Brian H. Corcoran
ECF

PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On December 19, 2023, respondent filed a Vaccine Rule 4(c) report concluding that petitioner suffered an injury that is compensable under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 to -34, that is, a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table. ECF No. 30. Accordingly, on December 20, 2023 the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement. ECF No. 31.

I. Compensation for Vaccine Injury-Related Items

A. Pain and Suffering

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of **\$50,000.00** for pain and suffering, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

B. Medicaid Lien

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded funds to satisfy the State of Virginia Medicaid lien in the amount of **\$1,004.92**, which represents full satisfaction of any right of subrogation, assignment, claim, lien, or cause of action the State of Virginia may have against any individual as a result of any Medicaid payments the State of Virginia has made to or on

behalf of petitioner from the date of her eligibility for benefits through the date of judgment in this case as a result of her alleged vaccine-related injury suffered on or about September 30, 2020 under Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

The above amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through two lump sum payments described below, and request that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following: ¹

- A. A lump sum payment of **\$50,000.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner; and
- B. A lump sum payment of **\$1,004.92**, representing compensation for satisfaction of the State of Virginia Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and the Treasurer of Virginia. Petitioner's file number, 202202132, should be noted on the check. The check should be mailed to:

Assistant Attorney General John A. Myers, Jr.
202 N. 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Petitioner agrees to endorse the check to the Treasurer of Virginia for satisfaction of the Medicaid lien.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO
Director

¹ Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.

Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

DARRYL R. WISHARD
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/s/ Katherine Edwards
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Dated: May 21, 2024